



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

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NASA Successfully Launches Weather Satellite

A new satellite that will improve weather forecasting and monitor environmental events around the world soared into space Sept. 21, 2000 after a picture-perfect launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-L spacecraft, lifted off at 3:22:04 a.m. PDT, on an

Sunnyvale, Calif., and launched for NOAA under technical guidance and project management by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Like other NOAA satellites, NOAA-L will collect meteorological data and transmit the information to users around the world to enhance weather forecasting. In the United States, the

data will be used primarily by NOAA's National Weather Service for its long-range weather and climate forecasts.

NOAA-L also will continue the support of the international COSPAS-SARSAT system by providing search and rescue capabilities essential for detection and location of ships, aircraft, and people in distress.

Data from the NOAA spacecraft are also used by researchers

within NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, a long-term research program designed to study Earth's land, oceans, atmosphere, ice and life as a total integrated system. In addition, these data are helping NASA scientists design instruments for follow-on missions.

For more information about NOAA-L and the polar orbiting satellites, see the following web sites:

<http://poes.gsfc.nasa.gov>

<http://www2.ncdc.noaa.gov/docs/intro.htm>

HETE - II Set for An October Launch

The High Energy Transient Explorer-II (HETE-II) is scheduled for launch Oct. 6, at 1:45 a.m. EDT from the Kwajalein Missile Range. The prime objective of the mission is to carry out a multi-wavelength study of gamma ray bursts with UV, X-ray and gamma ray instruments. The original HETE was lost due to a Pegasus launch failure on Nov. 4, 1996.

Sherry Foster Accepts New Assignment

One of the most experienced senior leaders at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Sherry Foster, has been asked to undertake a new assignment for NASA. Foster has been appointed Executive Director of the U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission, created by the U.S. Congress to serve as a national and international source of information about activities to commemorate the centennial of the Wright Brothers' historic first flight on December 17, 1903.

Director A.V. Diaz said, "We will miss Sherry's talent and contributions to the Center and the sense of humor that she invariably displays in all her interactions. I will personally miss her because I consider her a friend and a person I can always depend on for sound advice."

Alison McNally has been selected to succeed Foster as the Director of Management Operations, Code 200. McNally's started her federal career in 1981 as a Presidential Management Intern at Goddard. She has served as Deputy Director of Management Operations since 1998. McNally's appointment will coincide with the official start of Foster's assignment at the end of September.

Wallops Shorts.....

Balloon Launch

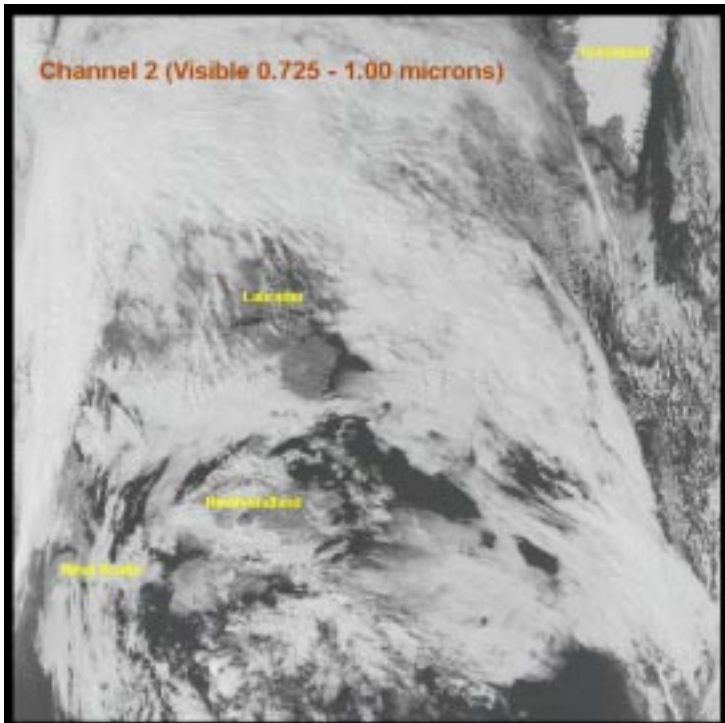
A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched on Sept. 19 from Ft. Sumner, N.M. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a high-energy astrophysics experiment. Dr. Jonathan Grindlay, Harvard University was the principal investigator. Total float time was 31 hours, 21 minutes.

Virginia State Fair

Betty Flowers, PAO; Bobby Flowers, Sounding Rocket Program Office; along with IC1(SW) Antwan Jordan and OS1(SW) Patrick Dwyer, Surface Combat Systems Center staffed an exhibit for Wallops Flight Facility in the Regional Showcase Building at the Virginia State Fair, Richmond, Va. The Eastern Shore was the area of Virginia featured during the weekend showcase, Sept. 23 and 24.

Congratulations to Quarterly Honor Awards Recipients

Shuttle Small Payloads Get Away Special/Space Experiment Module Project Team and Sandra M. Bogan, Real-Time Software Engineering Branch, Institutional Support Infrastructure



This image is the first visible image received at NOAA's Satellite Operations Control Center in Suitland, Md., from NOAA-16 via High Resolution Picture Transmission (HRPT). The white area in the upper right is Greenland.

Air Force-launched Titan II rocket. At 3:28:55 a.m. PDT, the spacecraft separated from the Titan II second stage.

Within 40 minutes of the launch, controllers successfully verified deployment of the solar array and confirmed that the spacecraft is in a power positive condition. NOAA-L is the second in a series of five polar-orbiting satellites with improved imaging and sounding capabilities that will operate over the next 12 years.

"We're off to a good start," said Harry McCain, POES program manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "The spacecraft is now in orbit and all data indicate we have a healthy spacecraft."

NASA will turn operational control of the NOAA-L spacecraft over to NOAA on Oct. 1. NASA's comprehensive on-orbit verification period is expected to take about 45 days.

The NOAA-L satellite was built by Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co.,

**Visitor Center Events
Scheduled for October**

October 7 — Model Rocket Launch
A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of various rockets will be launched. Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets and launch them. The launch will be canceled if it is raining or winds exceed 18 mph.

October 8 — Main Base Biking Tour
There will be a biking tour of the Wallops Main Base beginning at 3 p.m. The tour is 3 miles long and takes approximately one hour. Participants must bring their own bicycles, wear a helmet and sign up at the Visitor Center. The tour will be canceled if it is raining.

October 21 — Kite Flight
This 40-minute program that begins at 11 a.m. explores the history of flight and provides an opportunity for children to construct and fly their own kites.

Saturdays and Sundays — Puppets in Space
Puppets in Space is a 10-minute puppet show presented at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Puppet astronauts and Sam the monkey will explore space flight and the space suit. An eight-minute version of the film “Astrosmiles” follows the puppet show.

Sundays — Humans in Space
Humans in Space is a 30-minute program presented at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Learn what it’s like to live and work in space including a review of what the astronauts eat and what their wardrobes are in space. The program is followed by a hands-on activity to create a “space helmet”.

Daily — Space Ace
Children 5 to 10 years old can earn a “Space Ace” certificate and a lithograph any day they come to the Visitor Center by completing an activity sheet.

The Visitor Center is open Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

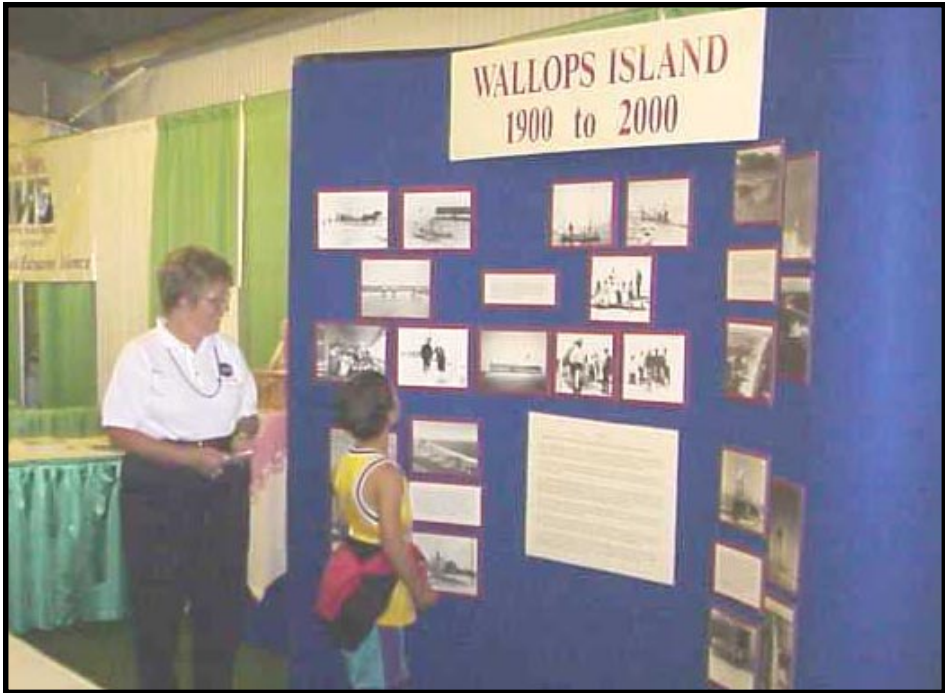
**Fiscal New Year’s Party
Sept. 29, 2000
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Music by Mr. B & the Boys**



Champagne,
Breakfast, Party
Favors

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the Exchange and Rocket Club.

For additional information contact Bev Hall, x1714.



Betty Flowers, PAO, talks to one of the young visitors that stopped by the Wallops exhibit in the Regional Showcase Building at the Virginia State Fair.

International Project Management Course
When: Nov. 12-17, 2000
Where: Holiday Inn Executive Center, Virginia Beach, VA

The course will provide a forum for project managers and those working international projects. The course has two sections, which together formulate the IPM course. The first section focuses on working international projects, and the second focuses on information for the project manager.

- Topics Include:
- International partners and structures.
 - Export control.
 - Building international relationships.
 - International negotiations.
 - Understanding across cultures.
 - International project formulation, implementation and risk management.
 - Country specific views.
 - Legal and ethical issues.
 - Shared experiences.

NASA Headquarters is sponsoring the course beginning with a social at 5 p.m., Sunday evening, Nov. 12, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and an opening session at 7 p.m.

Sessions will begin at 8 a.m. each day, with the final session ending on Friday, Nov. 17 at noon.

Meals, lodging, tuition, tips and gratuities will be funded by NASA Headquarters. Your Center will be responsible for travel funds to and from the training site.



**International Luncheon
October 5
11:30 a.m.
Bldg. F-3**

Admission: One covered dish of any national origin. Appropriate native attire is suggested. To register your dish call Lisa Johnson, 1412 or Sandra Banks, x2526.

Health Benefits Open Season Fair
The Benefits Office will hold a Health Benefits Open Season Fair for Wallops federal employees on Nov. 29. The fair will take place in Bldg. E-2 Conference Room from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Representatives from the various health plans will be on hand to answer questions and discuss benefit plan changes for the 2001 service year.

Khrista White, Office of Human Resources, also will be available to assist with general enrollment and Federal Employee Health Benefit questions.

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Editor
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Betty Flowers
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<http://www.wff.nasa.gov>